



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Ephrata Field Office
P.O. Box 815
Ephrata, Washington 98823

EPH-2120
2.1.4.17

Mr. Marty Peoples
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: Categorical Exclusion for Herman Lake Culvert Replacement, Columbia Basin Wildlife,
Adams County, Washington

Dear Mr. Peoples:

The Seep Lakes/Herman Lake culvert replacement project was determined to be a NEPA compliance (Level 1) Categorical Exclusion. The actions of this project do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the human environment.

EXCLUSION CATEGORY: 516 DM Chapter 14.5 D. (1) Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, and/or location.

CE#PN-EFO-CE-2017-068 / Signed: 8/30/17

We appreciate your support and assistance on this effort. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Alexis Mills, Hydrologist, at amills@usbr.gov or 509-754-0248.

Sincerely,

ACTING FOR

Sara Millard-BG

Toni E. Turner, P.E.
Program Manager
Irrigation Operations and Technical Services
Ephrata Field Office

Mr. Webster Bergford
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

bc: EPH-2120

WBR:AMills:bjgentry:09/07/2017:509-754-0248

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Project		
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Toni E. Turner, P.E.
Program Manager
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Ephrata Field Office

Mr. Webster Bergford
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Seeps Culvert Replacement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Adams County Washington, August 24, 2017

CP: PN-6515
EPH-2223
EPH-2300
EPN-2321

EXCLUSION CATEGORY: 516 DM Chapter 14.5 D. (1) Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, and/or location.

NATURE OF ACTION: Reclamation proposes to allow Washington Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to replace a damaged culvert and repair Seeps Lake Road at the Herman Lake outlet within the Columbia Basin Project (CBP).

EVALUATION OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (516 DM 2 Appendix 2: 43 CFR 46.215)

Extraordinary Circumstances Exist For This Action Which May:		No	Uncertain	Yes
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	x		
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	x		
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].	x		
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	x		
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	x		
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	x		
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	x		
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	x		
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	x		
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	x		
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal land by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	x		
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	x		

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Seeps Culvert Replacement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Adams County Washington, August 24, 2017

Additional compliance reviews	No	Uncertain	Yes
This action will affect Indian trust assets (ITAs) To be completed by ITA designee	x		
This action will adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation And Management Act	x		

NEPA ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- ☒ Categorical Exclusion
☐ Environmental Assessment
☐ Environmental Impact Statement

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRUST ASSET COMMITMENTS, EXPLANATION AND/OR COMMENTS: Reclamation is proposing to allow WDFW to replace the culvert on Seeps Lake Road at the outlet of Herman Lake. The culvert was destroyed by high spring runoff volumes in 2017. WDFW, the managing partner with Reclamation, will remove the existing 36" culvert and replace it with 66"x 51" x 66" arched culvert placed to match the bottom elevation of the existing 36" culvert and remove the existing 2' overflow culvert. WDFW will backfill and compact around the new culvert using excavation spoils and install and compact approx. 6" of base course and 6" of top course to the existing road grade, and place quarry spalls on the upstream and downstream sides of the culvert to protect the culvert from erosion. All excavated and disturbed areas will be seeded with native grass seed mix and straw mulched.

Location, Section 8, Township 16N, Range 29E, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Columbia Basin Project, Adams County, Washington

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The Ephrata Field Office Archaeologist has consulted with Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), as well as the appropriate Tribes, regarding the project and the likelihood of encountering cultural resources during construction. DAHP concurred that the likelihood for encountering cultural resources during the culvert replacement would be low since the area had been disturbed with the installation of the existing culvert and subsequently disturbed with the recent flooding event. However, since the project area has not been surveyed for cultural resources, it was agreed that the best or more practicable option would be to have an archaeological monitor present during construction activities. The Ephrata Field Office (EFO) Archaeologist, Susan Lynn White, has committed to monitoring the construction activities and will subsequently prepare and submit a monitoring report to all consulting parties for review and comments.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Sceps Culvert Replacement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Adams County Washington, August 24, 2017

T&E Species Review Reclamation concludes that a Biological evaluation, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), is not required for this action. Reclamation has determined that this Federal action will have no effect on Threatened or Endangered Species. WDFW has obtained an incidental take permit for this action.

Environmental Justice

In evaluating environmental justice, there would be no adverse or significant impacts to minority or low-income populations or communities.

EO 13007

This Federal action will not adversely impact access to or ceremonial use of any identified Indian sacred sites, and will not adversely affect the physical integrity of any such sacred sites.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Seeps Culvert Replacement, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Adams County Washington, August 24, 2017

Preparer's Signature:

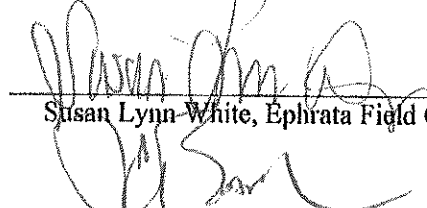


Richard Cornett, Natural Resource Specialist

Date:

8/28/17

Concurrence with Item
No. 7:

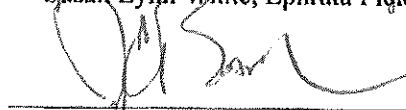


Susan Lynn White, Ephrata Field Office Archeologist

Date:

28 AUG 17

Concurrence:

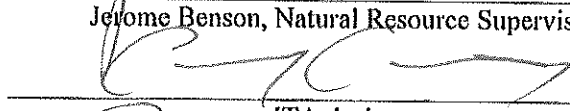


Jerome Benson, Natural Resource Supervisor

Date:

8/28/17

Concurrence:



ITA designee

Date:

8/24/17

Recommend:



Manager, Environmental Programs, Yakima WA

Date:

8/29/17

Approved:



Acting for

Manager, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, Yakima WA

Date:

8/30/17

Categorical Exclusion No.

PN-EFO-CE-2017-068

Date:

9/01/17